

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 12, and 28 have been amended herein. Claims 13, 15, and 25-26 have been cancelled herein.

II. Amendments To The Specification

Paragraphs [02] and [12] have been amended to correct typographical errors. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

III. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, and 28 have been amended so as to address the Examiner's concerns thereto.

IV. Remarks Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claim 4 has been amended to clarify the enclosure around the gear mechanism, which is an enclosure separate from the enclosure enclosing the clutch mechanism recited in claim 1.

V. Remarks Regarding The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Publication No. 2001/0023587 issued to Matsufuji (hereinafter "Matsufuji"). Claims 13, 15, and 25-26 have been cancelled herein and therefore are no longer relevant to this rejection. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the basis of the remaining amended claims.

To form a basis for a § 102 prior art rejection, a prior art reference must disclose each and every element as set forth in the claim. *See* MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE § 2131 (2004). Applicant respectfully submits that Matsufuji fails to teach each and every element as recited in amended independent claims 1, 9, and 28.

Matsufuji teaches a transmission for use in a tractor. Matsufuji does not teach a gearbox and clutch mechanism situated between a tractor and its corresponding agricultural equipment where the gearbox and clutch mechanism is situated external to both the tractor and the agricultural equipment (e.g. as depicted in Figure 1 of Applicant's application). Additionally, Matsufuji does not address

clutch mechanisms of right angle gearbox and clutch systems. Consequently, Matsufuji is not suited to address the unique disadvantages and inadequacies of such devices and systems.

In particular, Matsufuji fails to teach the elements “a right angle gearbox and clutch system” as recited in amended independent claims 1, 9, and 28.

Furthermore, as to amended independent claims 9 and 28, Matsufuji fails to teach the element “wherein said right angle gearbox and clutch system is situated external to said tractor and external to said agricultural equipment,” as recited in claims 9 and 28.

Each of these recited elements provide unique advantages such as allowing access to the clutch and/or gearbox mechanisms outside of the tractor and agricultural equipment, which allows easier maintenance and adjustments of the device than if the device were situated inside the tractor or agricultural equipment itself. At the same time, the enclosed nature of the device provides additional safety for personnel and protection of the device from external debris and other adverse conditions.

Thus, because Matsufuji fails to teach each and every element of Applicant’s recited claims, Matsufuji fails to anticipate Applicant’s claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection to independent claims 1, 9, and 28, and correspondingly as to dependent claims 2-8 and 10-12, 14, 16-24, and 27.

VI. No Waiver

All of Applicant’s arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicant has merely discussed example distinctions from the prior art references. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicant reserves the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by Examiner, Applicant does not acquiesce to Examiner’s additional statements. The example distinctions discussed by Applicant are sufficient to overcome the anticipation rejections.

CONCLUSION

Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0096 for any deficiency of fees.

The Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned for a teleconference to resolve any outstanding issues, as this Response is believed to put the case in condition for allowance.

At this time and in view of Applicants' amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

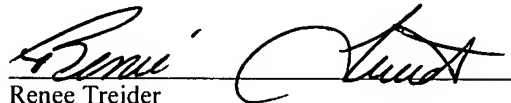


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Date: November 7, 2007


Renee Treider